

IPW



Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 07552.0041

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
Andrea PARRINO et al.)
Application No.: 10/511,391) Group Art Unit: 3679
Filed: October 15, 2004) Examiner: NOT YET ASSIGNED
For: CONNECTION ELEMENT AND)
CONNECTING DEVICE FOR)
TUBES)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§1.56 and 1.97(b), applicants bring to the Examiner's attention the documents listed on attached Form PTO/SB/08 and cited in the international search report. With the exception of the U.S. Patents and Published U.S. Patent Applications, copies of the listed documents are attached. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the documents listed on attached Form PTO/SB/08 and indicate that they were considered by making an appropriate notation on this form.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application.

The following are listed on the accompanying PTO/SB/08 and are in a non-English language:

1. WO 01/43814 A1 - An English-language abstract of the document is enclosed.
2. EP 0 472 088 A1 - An English-language abstract of the document is enclosed.
3. EP 0 976 419 A1 - An English-language abstract of the document is enclosed.
4. EP 0 715 860 B1 - English language claims are provided in columns 9 and 10 of the document. An English-language abstract is also enclosed.
5. EP 0 198 407 B1 - English language claims are provided in columns 14-17 of the document. An English-language abstract is also enclosed. This document corresponds to U.S. 4,745,950 cited on the enclosed Form PTO/SB/08.
6. EP 0 327 850 B1 - English language claims are provided page 4 of the document. An English-language abstract is also enclosed.
7. EP 0 442 072 B1 - English language claims are provided in columns 9 and 10 of the document. An English-language abstract is also enclosed.
8. EP 0 576 380 B1 - English language claims are provided in columns 9 - 11 of the document. An English-language abstract is also enclosed.
9. JP 2002-355318 - An English-language abstract of the document is enclosed.
10. JP 2003-144546 - An English-language abstract of the document is enclosed.
11. WO 2004/030744 A1 - An English-language abstract of the document is enclosed.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents. Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: JUL 13 2005

By: 

Ernest F. Chapman
Reg. No. 25,981

Enclosures
EFC/FPD/mld

Complete if Known

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 4

Application Number 10/511,391
Filing Date October 15, 2004
First Named Inventor Andrea PARRINO et al.
Art Unit 3679
Examiner Name NOT YET ASSIGNED
Attorney Docket Number 07552.0041

U.S. PATENTS AND PUBLISHED U.S. PATENT APPLICATIONS

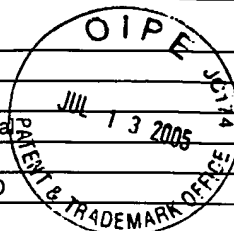
Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Issue or Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US-5,555,908	09-17-1996	EDWARDS et al.	
		US-5,242,432	09-07-1993	DEFRANK	
		US-6,228,069 B1	05-08-2001	BARTH et al.	
		US-5,738,144	04-14-1998	ROGERS	
		US-5,573,516	11-12-1996	TYNER	
		US-5,967,410	10-19-1999	LAMMERS	
		US-5,353,837	10-11-1994	FAUST	
		US-6,482,189 B2	11-19-2002	DÖPPER et al.	
		US-5,676,346	10-14-1997	LEINSING	
		US-5,782,816	07-21-1998	WERSCHMIDT et al.	
		US-4,878,516	11-07-1989	MATHIEU	
		US-6,581,906 B2	06-24-2003	POTT et al.	
		US-4,611,643	09-16-1986	BEEBE et al.	
		US-6,234,538 B1	05-22-2001	LAUER	
		US-5,730,418	03-24-1998	FEITH et L.	
		US-5,743,892	04-28-1998	LOH et al.	
		US-6,290,206 B1	09-18-2001	DOYLE	
		US-6,089,541	07-18-2000	WEINHEIMER et al.	
		US-5,349,984	09-27-1994	WEINHEIMER et al.	
		US-6,299,132 B1	10-09-2001	WEINHEIMER et al.	
		US-6,299,131 B1	10-09-2001	RYAN	
		US-5,957,898	09-28-1999	JEPSON et al.	
		US-6,261,282 B1	07-17-2001	JEPSON et al.	
		US-5,733,270	03-31-1998	LING et al.	
		US-5,782,808	07-21-1998	FOLDEN	
		US-3,910,283	10-07-1975	LEVEEN	
		US-4,334,551	06-15-1982	PFISTER	
		US-4,439,188	03-27-1984	DENNEHEY et al.	
		US-4,655,762	04-07-1987	ROGERS	

Note: Copies of the U.S. Patent Documents are not Required in IDS filed after October 21, 2004

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
--------------------	--	-----------------	--

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

IDS Form PTO/SB/08: Substitute for form 1449A/PTO <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;"> INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT </div> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">(Use as many sheets as necessary)</p>				Complete if Known	
		<i>Application Number</i>	10/511,391		
		<i>Filing Date</i>	October 15, 2004		
		<i>First Named Inventor</i>	Andrea PARRINO et al.		
		<i>Art Unit</i>	3679		
		<i>Examiner Name</i>	NOT YET ASSIGNED		
		<i>Attorney Docket Number</i>	07552.0041		
Sheet	2	of	4		

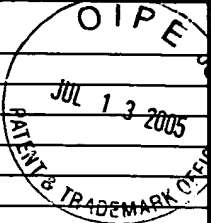


U.S. PATENTS AND PUBLISHED U.S. PATENT APPLICATIONS					
Examiner Initials	Cite No. ³	Document Number	Issue or Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ⁴ (if known)			
		US-5,749,861	05-12-1998	GUALA et al.	
		US-4,645,494	02-24-1987	LEE et al.	
		US-5,569,235	10-29-1996	ROSS et al.	
		US-5,509,433	04-23-1996	PARADIS	
		US-4,745,950	05-24-1988	MATHIEU	
		US-5,788,215	08-04-1998	RYAN	
		US-2001/0016715 A1	08-23-2001	MAYER	
		US-5,806,551	09-15-1998	MELOUL et al.	
		US-5,439,451	08-08-1995	COLLINSON et al.	
		US-2003/0032940 A1	02-13-2003	DOYLE	
		US-2004/0073171 A1	04-15-2004	ROGERS et el.	
		US-2003/0209681 A1	11-13-2003	LEINSING et al.	
		US-2003/0208165 A1	11-06-2003	CHRISTENSEN et al.	
		US-2001/0042850 A1	11-22-2001	COTE, SR. et al.	
		US-2003/0098430 A1	05-29-2003	LEINSING et al.	
		US-2003/0093061 A1	05-15-2003	GANEM	
		US-2003/0060804 A1	03-27-2003	VAILLANCOURT	
		US-2004/0124388 A1	07-01-2004	KIEHNE	
		US-2002/0029020 A1	03-07-2002	COTE, SR. et al.	
		US-6,299,132 B1	10-09-2001	WEINHEIMER et al.	
		US-6,206,861 B1	03-27-2001	MAYER	
		US-6,168,137 B1	01-02-2001	PARADIS	
		US-6,706,022 B1	03-16-2004	LEINSING et al.	
		US-5,122,123	06-16-1992	VAILLANCOURT	
		US-5,474,544	12-12-1995	LYNN	
		US-5,501,426	03-26-1996	ATKINSON et al.	
		US-4,243,034	01-06-1981	BRANDT	
		US-5,806,831	09-15-1998	PARADIS	
		US-6,572,591 B2	06-03-2003	MAYER	

Note: Copies of the U.S. Patent Documents are not Required in IDS filed after October 21, 2004

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
-----------------------	--	--------------------	--

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

IDS Form PTO/SB/08: Substitute for form 1449A/PTO <h2 style="text-align: center; margin: 10px 0;">INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</h2> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">(Use as many sheets as necessary)</p>				Complete if Known	
		Application Number	10/511,391		
		Filing Date	October 15, 2004		
		First Named Inventor	Andrea PARRINO et al.		
		Art Unit	3679		
		Examiner Name	NOT YET ASSIGNED		
Sheet	3	of	4	Attorney Docket Number	07552.0041

U.S. PATENTS AND PUBLISHED U.S. PATENT APPLICATIONS					
Examiner Initials	Cite No. ⁵	Document Number Number-Kind Code ⁶ (if known)	Issue or Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		US-5,839,715	11-24-1998	LEINSING	
		US-6,142,446	11-07-2000	LEINSING	
		US-5,699,821	12-23-1997	PARADIS	

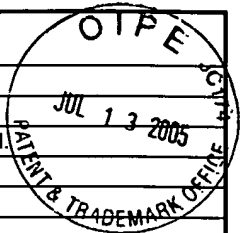
Note: Copies of the U.S. Patent Documents are not Required in IDS filed after October 21, 2004

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document Country Code ⁷ Number ⁸ Kind Code ⁹ (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	Translation ¹⁰
		WO 01/43814 A1	06-21-2001	HISHIKAWA		Abstract only
		WO 01/80928 A2	11-01-2001	URICH et al.		
		EP 0 472 088 A1	02-26-1992	WEX		Abstract only
		EP 0 976 419 A1	02-02-2000	FREZZA		Abstract only
		WO 01/07102 A2	02-01-2001	LEINSING et al.		
		WO 96/33762	10-31-1996	WERSCHMIDT et al.		
		WO 97/24548	07-10-1997	RYAN		
		EP 0 724 464 B1	08-07-1996	MURPHEY et al.		
		EP 0 098 282 B1	01-18-1984	LUEDERS et al.		
		EP 0 715 860 B1	06-12-1996	HEILMANN et al.		Abstract and Claims only
		EP 0 198 407 B1	10-22-1986	MATHIEU		Abstract and Claims only
		EP 0 327 850 B1	08-16-1989	KOCH et al.		Abstract and Claims only
		EP 0 442 072 B1	08-21-1991	HERLITZE et al.		Abstract and Claims only
		EP 1 004 329 B1	05-31-2000	VALOTI		
		WO 96/30076	10-03-1996	MATKOVICH		
		WO 98/50106	11-12-1998	ORR et al.		
		EP 0 576 380 B1	12-29-1993	FREZZA		Abstract and Claims only
		WO 98/26835	06-25-1998	LOPEZ		

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
--------------------	-----------------

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

IDS Form PTO/SB/08: Substitute for form 1449A/PTO <h2 style="text-align: center;">INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">(Use as many sheets as necessary)</p>				Complete if Known	
				Application Number	10/511,391
				Filing Date	October 15, 2004
				First Named Inventor	Andrea PARRINO et al.
				Art Unit	3679
				Examiner Name	NOT YET ASSIGNED
				Attorney Docket Number	07552.0041
Sheet	4	of	4		



FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	Translation ¹⁴
		Country Code ¹¹ Number ¹² Kind Code ¹³ (if known)				
		WO 03/030986	04-17-2003	ENERSON		
		WO 03/030987	04-17-2003	NEWTON		
		WO 03/018104	03-06-2003	NEWTON		
		EP 1 243 285	09-25-2002	HISHIKAWA et al.		
		EP 1 210 960 A1	06-05-2002	RICHMOND		
		JP 2002-355318	12-10-2002	ARAKI		Abstract Only
		JP 2003-144546	05-20-2003	HISHIKAWA		Abstract Only
		WO 2004/030744 A1	04-15-2004	SUZUKI		Abstract Only
		EP 1 398 053 A1	03-17-2004	LEINSING		
		EP 0 766 572 B1	04-09-1997	COLLINSON et al.		
		EP 1 236 482 B1	09-04-2002	LEINSING		
		EP 0 478 365 B1	12-18-1996	LEINSING		

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
-----------------------	--	--------------------	--

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.